

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Morris for indicating allowability of Claims 23 and 33.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Applicants have included the limitations of allowable Claim 23 in Claim 1 and obtain allowance of Claims 1-22. Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected Claims 24-31 should be rejoined.

In addition, Claims 34-42 are now dependent on allowable Claim 33 and thus, Claims 33-51 are allowable.

Further, the objection to the specification as containing new matter has been obviated by the amendment of the specification.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that the references cited in the **Information Disclosure Statement**, filed in the above-identified application on **March 18, 2003**, have been considered. For the Examiner's convenience a copy of Form PTO 1449 as filed on **March 18, 2003**, is attached herewith.


Application No. 09/848,439
Reply to Office Action of November 10, 2003

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Customer
Number
22850

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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